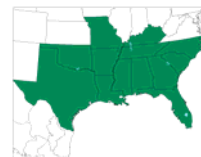


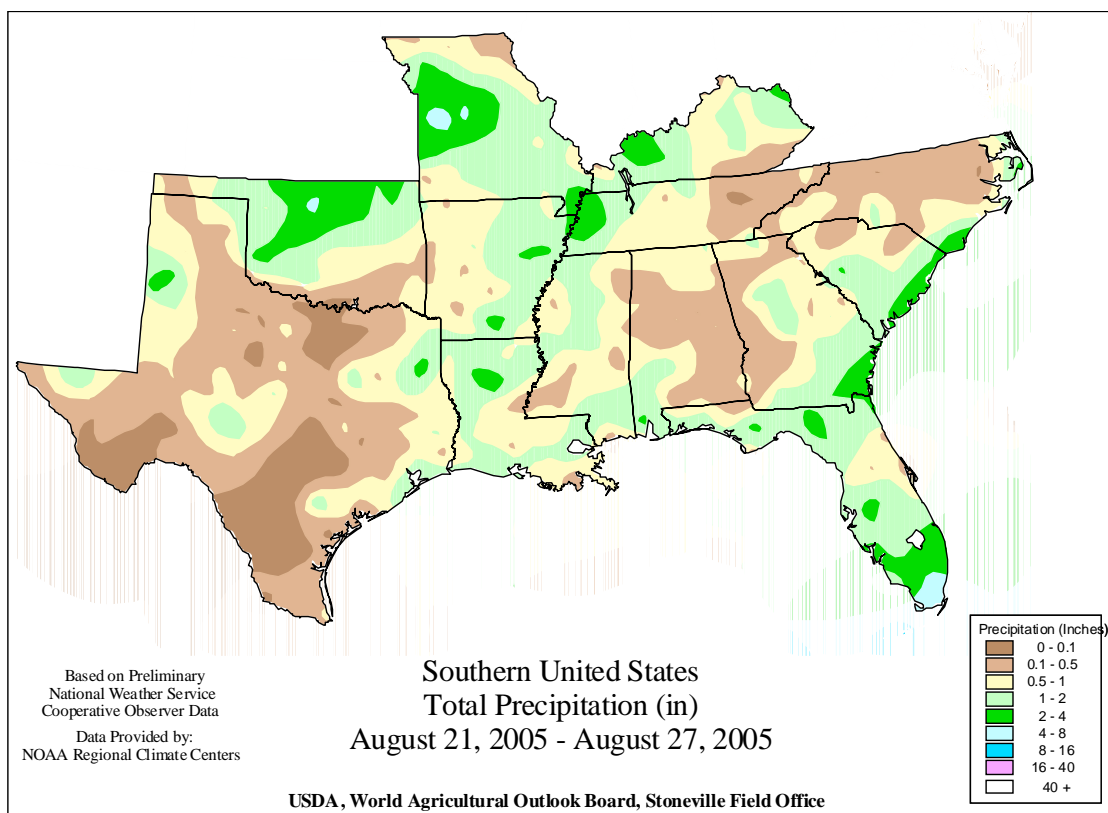


**Office of the Chief Economist
World Agricultural Outlook Board
Stoneville Field Office**



WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL WEATHER REPORT

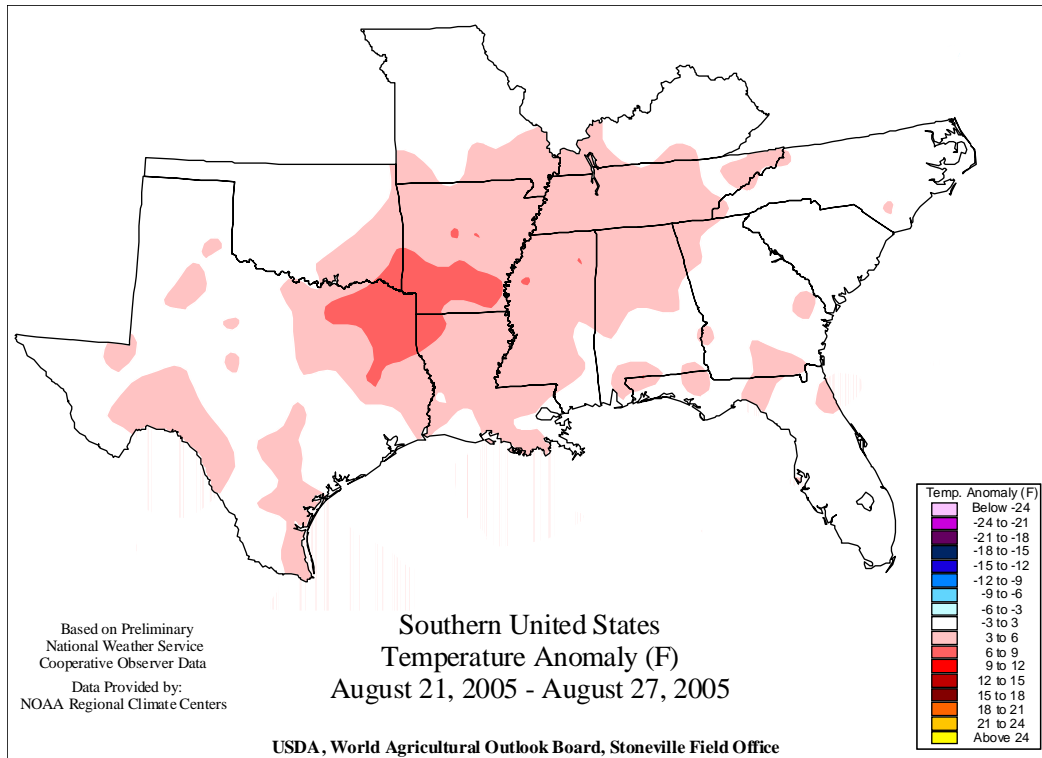
August 21 to August 27, 2005



Weather Highlights

Hurricane Katrina was this week's highlight, making landfall across southern Florida in Miami-Dade County. Katrina brought sustained winds of 80 mph with higher gusts and rain in excess of 4 inches to the tip of the Florida peninsula and the Keys. Elsewhere, a cold front brought rain showers to Oklahoma, Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee, with some locations receiving 4-8 inches during the week. Scattered showers caused minor fieldwork delays in parts of Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, East Texas, and the Southeast.

Weekly temperatures averaged above normal in many areas across the southern United States. The area south of the cold front recorded temperatures that averaged 3 to 9 degrees F above normal.



In the Mississippi Delta, above-normal temperatures accompanied scattered showers and thunderstorms on several days during the week. The showers and thunderstorms produced localized rain amounts of 1 to 2 inches. The majority of the Delta received between 0.50 and 1.50 inches of rain, although there were areas that remained dry. Maximum temperatures of 99 degrees F or above were observed at every weather station in the Delta, with North Issaquena reaching 104 degrees F and Stoneville reaching 103 degrees F during the week.

(For additional information, contact Bart Freeland at 662-686-3280)

Agricultural Summary

United States Crop Progress Report*					
Week Ending					
August 28, 2005 August 21, 2005 August 28, 2004 2000-2004 Average					
		Percent			
Cotton	Setting Bolls	97	91	96	98
	Bolls Opening	19	14	24	29
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	65	63	71	---
Corn	Dough	91	80	77	84
	Dented	61	40	44	52
	Mature	11	6	10	12
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	52	50	70	---
Rice	Headed	97	90	95	96
	Harvested	16	13	19	20
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	61	63	71	---
Soybeans	Setting Pods	97	94	95	95
	Dropping Leaves	6	NA	6	7
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	53	52	64	---
*Source: USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)					
"---" = Not Reported					

Cotton:

Bolls were setting on 97 percent of the acreage nationally, compared with 96 percent last year and 98 percent for the 5-year average. Nineteen percent of the acreage had open bolls, behind last year's pace by 5 points and the 5-year average pace by 10 points. Of the southern states, only Arkansas was ahead of their 5-year average boll opening pace. Louisiana, Georgia, and Mississippi were significantly behind their 5-year average boll opening pace, all behind by 20 points. Nationally, crop conditions improved 2 percentage points from the previous week to 65 percent of the crop rated good to excellent.

Corn:

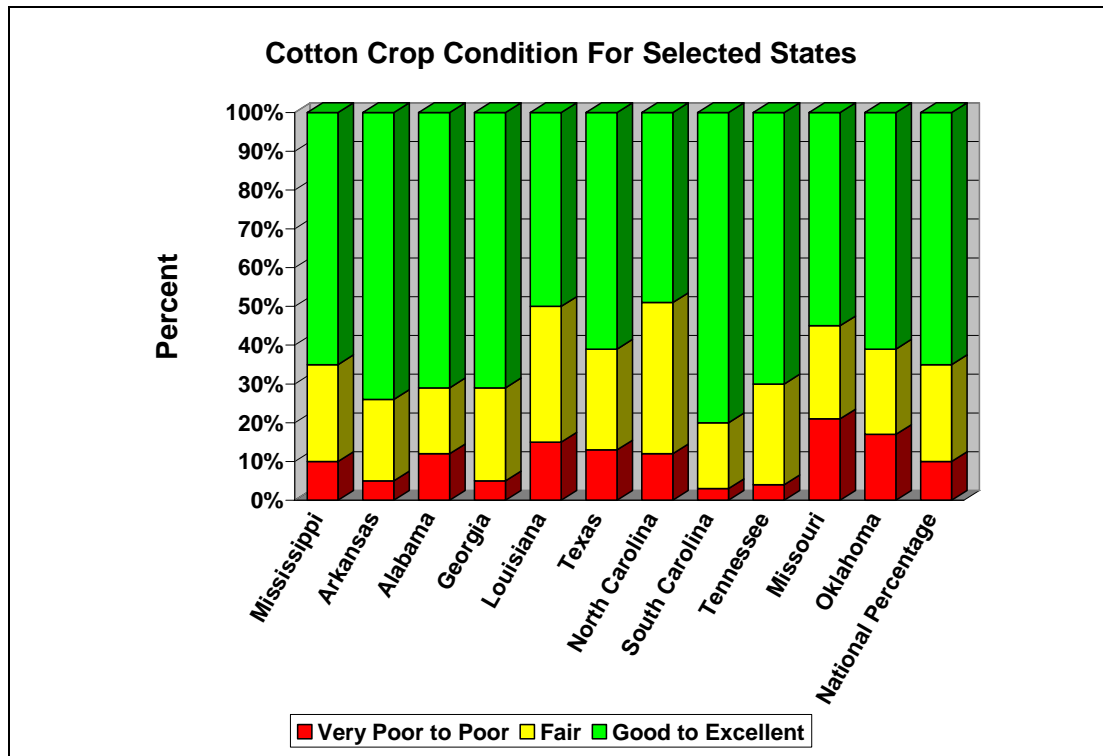
Sixty-one percent of the nation's crop was in the dent stage, 17 points ahead of last year and 9 points ahead of the 5-year average. Crop acreage in the good to excellent category improved 2 points from the previous week to 52 percent. Harvest continued in the majority of the southern states. Crop conditions improved in many of the southern states.

Rice:

Nationally, 16 percent of the acreage had been harvested, 3 points behind last year's pace and 4 points behind the 5-year average. Sixty-one percent of the nation's crop was rated good to excellent, a 2 point decline from the previous week. Mississippi continued to lead all southern states with 84 percent of their crop rated good to excellent, a 1 point decline from the previous week. The harvest continued in Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana, and began in Mississippi and Missouri.

Soybeans:

Pods were set on 97 percent of the acreage, 2 points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Crop conditions, with 53 percent of the crop rated good to excellent, improved 1 point from the previous week. Southern states' soybean harvest continued in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, and began in Oklahoma.



Cotton Conditions by State:

Nationally, 65 percent of the cotton acreage was rated good to excellent, a 2 point improvement from the previous week. Only Louisiana, Texas, Missouri, and Oklahoma improved their good to excellent crop ratings of all the southern states. South Carolina, with 80 percent of their crop rated good to excellent, and Arkansas, with 74 percent of their crop rated good to excellent, had the best crop conditions of all the southern states. North Carolina's crop declined 8 points to 49 percent of their acres rated good to excellent, the lowest of any southern state.

(For additional information, contact Bart Freeland at 662-686-3280)